

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 14241 271142Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 270959Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8612

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH

SUBJECT: INDIAN DIPLOMATS SEE PRC TIES DEVELOPING CAUTIOUSLY;  
PRC AMBASSADOR SEES LINKS ETERNAL

REF: NEW DELHI 13901

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26 BETWEEN POL-  
COUNSELOR AND MEA JOINT SECRETARY (EAST ASIA) N. N. JHA, AND  
DEPUTY SECRETARY RANGACHARI (CHINA), INDIANS SAID THAT THEY EN-  
VISAGED NO SIGNIFICANT SHORT-TERM SHIFTS IN SINO-INDIAN  
RELATIONS. ON QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF CHINESE EMBASSY IN  
DELHI, THE INDIANS DID NOT PLAN TO RELAX THEIR TRAVEL  
RESTRICTIONS AT THIS TIME. INDIANS WOULD DEAL WITH CHINESE  
ON BASIS OF BILATERAL RECIPROCITY, TAKING INO ACCOUNT  
RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY INDIAN DIPLOMATS IN CHINA. THE  
INDIANS WERE NOT PLANNING ON AUTHORIZING NCNA CORRESPONDENT  
TO COME TO INDIA (ALTHOUGH CHINESE EMBOFF HAD TOLD  
WESTERN DIPLOMAT RECENTLY HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 14241 271142Z

IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE). NOR WERE THERE ANY PLANS TO

ALTER CURRENT INDIAN RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE WITH CHINA. JHA DEPRECATINGLY SAID THAT CHINESE AND INDIAN ECONOMIES WERE PARALLEL NOT COMPLEMENTARY, AND THE INDIANS WOULD IN ANY EVENT THINK VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE SHIFTING PURCHASES TO CHINA FROM OTHER MORE TRADITIONAL AND "RELIABLE" SUPPLIERS. JHA AND RANGACHARI BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT CHINESE CONSIDERATION FOR INDIAN POLITICAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS WOULD FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN INDIAN CALCULATIONS ON HOW FAR AND FAST TO GO IN DEVELOPING BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER. THE CHINESE POSITIONS AT 31ST UNGA ON SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE ISSUE, ON THE FARAKKA QUESTION, AND--LESS IMPORTANTLY--ON IOZP WOULD BE WATCHED WITH CARE BY GOI.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ON THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT ON BORDER ISSUES, RANGACHARI THOUGHT THAT STATUS OF SIKKIM MIGHT BE A DIFFICULT ISSUE TO RESOLVE, CONSIDERING PAST CHINESE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, BUT HE DID NOT CHALLENGE SUGGESTION THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WOULD HAVE TO REVOLVE AROUND ACCEPTANCE BY BOTH SIDES OF CURRENT STATUS QUO.

3. MEANWHILE PRC AMBASSADOR CH'EN CHAO-YUAN TOLD A MEMBER OF THE INDIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ON SEPTEMBER 26 THAT: "THE NEW SAPLING OF SINO-INDIAN FRIENDSHIP DESERVES OUR METICULOUS CULTIVATION AND GREAT CARE AND CONCERN...MAY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND INDIAN PEOPLES LAST FOREVER LIKE THE GREEN MOUNTAINS AND FLOW FOREVER LIKE BLUE STREAMS." RAILWAY MINISTER KAMLAPTI TRIPATHI, A SENIOR CABINET MINISTER, SAID THAT THE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAD RECENTLY COME UNDER A CLOUD WERE BECOMING NORMAL AGAIN DUE TO INDIA'S POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. TRIPATHI PAID TRIBUTE TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI FOR TAKING A BOLD INITIATIVE IN RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT D. K. BAROOAH, WHO ALSO SAT ON THE DIAS, WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR AND SAID HIS PRESENCE IN NEW DELHI AND THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE IN PEKING MARK THE COMPLETION OF A NEW PHASE IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 14241 271142Z

4. WE BELIEVE THE REALITIES OF THE RELATIONSHIP ARE MORE ACCURATELY REFLECTED IN THE PRIVATE COMMENTS OF THE TWO INDIAN DIPLOMATS RATHER THAN THE RHETORIC OF THE PUBLIC MEETING. AFTER ALL, AMBASSADOR CHEN, WHO HAS SERVED IN INDIA BEFORE, KNOWS THAT GREEN INDIAN MOUNTAINS TURN BROWN, AND BLUE INDIAN STREAMS DRY UP. SAXBE

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